CITIES ARE WHERE THE FUTURE HAPPENS FIRST

Since it was launched in 2005, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group has highlighted the critical role that cities must play in the global effort to confront climate change. Cities generate most of the world’s carbon emissions, and by 2030 approximately 60 percent of the global population will live in cities. Because city leaders usually have authority over the systems that create the most carbon emissions – like transportation, buildings, and waste – they can act boldly to reduce emissions and protect citizens from risks.

C40 was founded on the idea that cities can achieve more by working together than acting alone – and city leaders have enthusiastically embraced it. Over the last decade, C40 has grown from 18 cities to more than 80 cities representing more than 600 million people and one quarter of the global economy. To date, C40 cities have committed to reducing their emissions by a total of more than 3 gigatons of CO2 by 2030 – the equivalent of taking 600 million cars off the road.

By helping mayors and city leaders identify effective policies and learn from one another, C40 has served as an engine for progress on climate change. That has improved millions of lives around the world, because the same policies that reduce carbon emissions also clean the air people breathe and help cities create jobs and attract businesses.

To accelerate this progress, cities are finding new ways to collaborate, including through the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, which C40 mayors are helping to lead. Through the Covenant, cities are pledging to measure and report their emissions reductions in a standardized way. This sharing of data helps smart strategies spread – and by showing how much progress is possible, it also helps encourage national governments to set more ambitious climate goals.

The leadership shown by cities helped make a bold agreement on climate change possible at the UN’s COP21 conference in Paris. That leadership will remain critically important in the years ahead as the world works to achieve the goals set in Paris and prevent the worst impacts of climate change. As much progress as we’ve made, the hardest work still lies ahead.

Eduardo Paes
C40 Chair and Mayor of Rio de Janeiro

Michael R. Bloomberg
C40 Board President, UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change

July, 2016
"As mayors, we all face similar challenges and have to innovate to solve them, often in the same ways. The C40 network connects us all, enabling us to share ideas and collaborate, working together towards a greener, healthier future."

Anne Hidalgo
Mayor of Paris, host city to the UN climate change conference, COP21
More than 1,000 mayors, local representatives, and community leaders from around the world took part in the Climate Summit for Local Leaders, hosted by Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo and the U.N. Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change Michael R. Bloomberg during COP21.

DEFINING MOMENTS IN C40 HISTORY

THE ORGANIZATION IS FOUNDED
In October 2005, then Mayor of London Ken Livingstone convened representatives from 18 megacities to forge an agreement on cooperatively reducing climate pollution and created the ‘C20’.

40 MEGACITIES
By 2006, we had grown to 40 cities, and thus the name C40. That year, President Bill Clinton’s Climate Initiative (CCI) became our implementing partner on world-class carbon reduction projects.

MAYORS COLLABORATE
In 2007, New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg hosted the second C40 Mayors Summit, bringing together 36 mayors from major global cities. As C40 Chair (2008 – 2010) Mayor David Miller of Toronto strengthened the network. Convening C40 member cities at the 2009 UN climate talks in Copenhagen, he helped to bring about a pivotal moment in which cities gained lasting global recognition for their leadership on climate change.

A LANDMARK MERGER
C40 moved up a gear with the 2011 announcement of a formal merger between C40 and CCI’s Cities Programme, forged by President Clinton and then Mayor of New York City and C40 Chair, Michael R. Bloomberg, bringing significant resources and infrastructure to create a preeminent global climate action organization.

A FULLY GLOBAL ALLIANCE
At the 2014 C40 Mayors Summit in Johannesburg, Rio de Janeiro Mayor Eduardo Paes became the first C40 chair from the Global South, which, during his tenure, has grown to represent more than 50% of our membership.

HISTORIC PARIS AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE
In 2015, as C40 marked its 10th anniversary, cities were crucial voices in shaping and advocating for a strong Paris Agreement – just as city leaders will be crucial in delivering on its ambition going forward.
"Ten years ago, when the C40 was created, my foundation was honored to be asked to help large cities develop and implement their climate and energy efficiency plans. Since then, C40 cities have shown the world how to grow economies, create jobs, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Today, the C40 is the world’s pre-eminent network of cities working to address climate change, connecting the regions of the world, building on each others’ experiences, and signalling to national governments that tangible solutions and measurable results are possible."

President Bill Clinton
Founder of the Clinton Foundation & 42nd President of the United States, and Founding Partner of C40
CONNECTING AND LEARNING

As a consensus-based, best practice-sharing network, C40’s delivery model has stood the test of time. Today, C40 networks connect hundreds of city officials around the world, helping them to implement climate action, access partnership resources and overcome technical and financial barriers. Currently working across six initiative areas, C40 delivers over 100 workshops and webinars each year, alongside a dynamic online knowledge exchange platform.

Sharing is working. The power of our network is that when one city demonstrates the success of a great idea, other cities can quickly implement it.

50% C40 cities focus on what works, scaling up climate action: 50% of all reported actions are now city-wide, up from 15% in 2011.

75% Nearly 75% of C40 cities have been able to take new, better or faster climate actions as a result of participating in C40 networks; for example, investment in bus rapid transit (BRT) grew from 21 to 42 cities in 2 years.

80% Ambition is growing: cities are planning to expand 80% of all actions.
"In Copenhagen, we have set the very ambitious goal of being 100 percent carbon neutral by 2025 – becoming the first major global city to do so. Cities hold the key to a sustainable future, and by sharing our best ideas and solutions within C40, we can go from great solutions locally to brilliant advances globally."

Frank Jensen
Lord Mayor of Copenhagen

"Chinese cities are expanding rapidly, and we are interested in learning from other megacities at the leading edge of sustainability."

Jie Tang
Former Vice Mayor, Shenzhen Municipal Government of China

"Johannesburg leads the C40 Bus Rapid Transit Network and has found it an invaluable resource for both sharing and receiving urban solutions. Through the network and our other involvement in C40, including hosting the C40 Mayors Summit in early 2014, we have benefited not only as a city but as part of a global community."

Mpho Parks Tau
Executive Mayor of Johannesburg
EMPOWERING CITIES WITH DATA

C40 Research, Measurement and Planning leverages our unprecedented database of city actions, extensive network of partnerships, and unique organisational insight to demonstrate the power of cities to address climate change.

C40’s research has shown that one third of the remaining global safe carbon budget – the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions we can risk putting into the atmosphere – will be determined by urban policy decisions made between now and 2020, when global emissions must peak.

Our research analyzes key trends, identifies opportunities for further action across the global C40 network, and helps to prioritize initiative areas with the greatest potential impact.

C40’s research agenda is committed to creating actionable data, supporting decision-making and driving investments. Our cutting-edge tools, standards and frameworks help cities to implement the most impactful mitigation and adaptation strategies, and measure and manage their effectiveness.
THE VOICE OF MEGACITIES ON THE GLOBAL STAGE
By engaging mayors in the international debate on climate and sustainable urban development, C40 highlights the crucial role of cities and the decisive leadership of mayors to place the world on a climate safe pathway, and help secure resources for ambitious local climate action.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE GLOBAL COVENANT OF MAYORS FOR CLIMATE & ENERGY
In June 2016, cities around the world made another great and historic stride: bringing together the Compact of Mayors, which C40 helped to activate and deliver, and the EU Covenant of Mayors to form a new Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy. This new initiative will unify and build upon the commitment of 7,100 cities and towns from 119 countries and six continents, representing more than 600 million residents. It will help cities transition to a low-carbon economy and demonstrate their global impact.

C40 has long been committed to the principle that working together helps cities go farther, faster. The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy helps us to engage new partners and a broader coalition of city leaders taking concrete, measurable and transparent action on climate change.
"This century's challenge focuses on how to grow using a new model of development. As home to more than half of the world's 7 billion people and one of the largest sources of emissions, cities are well situated to reshape social and economic growth and usher in an era of climate-safe, sustainable development."

Christiana Figueres
Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2010-2016)
THE FUTURE IS URBAN, AND IT IS BRIGHT

C40’s vision of a bright future is based on the will, ingenuity and commitment of city leaders to put the world on a low-carbon development path.

By 2050, cities will be compact, connected and coordinated. They will have dense rather than sprawling urban forms, notable for their vibrant greenbelts and green roofs. Urban citizens will enjoy a high degree of mobility based primarily on walking, cycling, and public transport. Having achieved their long-term targets for carbon neutrality, cities will enjoy clean sources of energy, including local and district energy solutions.

At the same time, cities will continue to be the world’s economic engines and creative hubs of innovation. Indeed, there is enormous opportunity for cities to be healthy and prosperous communities where everyone can thrive. But there is much more to be done – and C40 is leading the way.

Today we face critical choices that determine the welfare of future generations. Let us embrace our collective future, and act.
Michael R. Bloomberg, President of the Board
Trevor Fowler, City of Johannesburg
Bruce Lindsey, Clinton Foundation
Jesper Nygård, Realdania
Shirley Rodrigues, Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)
Aisa D. Tobing, City of Jakarta
Antha Williams, Bloomberg Philanthropies

Amman, Jordan
Boston, United States
Copenhagen, Denmark
Hong Kong, China
Jakarta, Indonesia
Johannesburg, South Africa
London, United Kingdom
Los Angeles, United States
Mexico City, Mexico
Milan, Italy
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Seoul, Republic of Korea
Tokyo, Japan

Rio de Janeiro Mayor Eduardo Paes (2013-present)
New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg (2010-2013)
Toronto Mayor David Miller (2008-2010)
London Mayor Ken Livingstone (2005-2008)

Led by mayors, C40 benefits from generous funding by philanthropists who share our vision and believe in the value we create:

BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES
C40 was strengthened in 2011 by a strategic and multi-year grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies, which helped to forge the closer alliance with the Cities Programme of the Clinton Foundation’s Climate Initiative, and position the combined effort as one of the pre-eminent climate action organisations in the world.

THE CHILDREN’S INVESTMENT FUND FOUNDATION
The Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) is an independent philanthropic organization that aims to demonstrably improve the lives of children in developing countries by achieving large-scale, sustainable impact.

REALDANIA
Realdania is a modern philanthropic association that works to create quality of life and benefit the common good by improving the built environment: cities, buildings and the built heritage.

WORLD-LEADING PARTNERS
C40 partners with world-leading multi-national and non-profit organisations as well as businesses to provide cities with vital resources including research, analytical tools, funding, financing, and technical expertise.
